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Moreover, the arrangement in the *Nichols* reference does not operate as suggested by the Examiner. The two halves 44 and 46 do not compress the rope ends 24. They cannot be a first compressive system as contended by the Examiner. The swage 60 does not mechanically deform the rope ends 24 responsive to any slippage of the rope ends 24 relative to the cover halves 44, 46. It cannot be a second compressive system as contended by the Examiner.

There is no possibility of rope slippage relative to the cover in the *Nichols* reference. Column 3, line 40-41, teaches, "Each end extends through a swage 60 which initially is cylindrical but which is crimped in a die for tightly grasping the free ends 24." Additionally, beginning in column 3, line 50, the *Nichols* reference teaches, "The internal cavity 52 of the combined cover 44, 46 is sized to snugly receive the swage therein. The size of the bight 62 is selected to match the length of the internal channel 54 of the cover, and the openings 50 of the cover are sized to snugly receive the rope ends 24A, 24B." These teachings indicate that there is no opportunity for the rope ends 24 to slip relative to the cover or the swage of the *Nichols* reference.

The swage 60 is snugly received in a position that does not allow for any slippage between it and the cover. Additionally, the fixed relationship between the swage 60 and the rope ends does not allow for the swage 60 to move within the cover halves 44, 46 even if it were not snugly received in a manner that it was not moveable relative to the cover halves. The fact that the rope end 24A is tightly grasped by the swage 60 at two locations establishes a fixed length along the bight 62. The *Nichols* reference teaches that the length of the bight 62 is the same as the channel 54. That relative arrangement of the components does not allow for any slippage of the rope end 24A or the swage 60 relative to either of the cover halves 44, 46.

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Without any movement of the rope relative to the cover halves 44 and 46 and no subsequent or responsive deformation of the rope by the swage 60, it is not reasonable to interpret those parts as first and second compressive systems as the Examiner has in the Office Action.

There is no *prima facie* case of anticipation and the rejection based upon the *Nichols* reference must be withdrawn.

**The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)
based upon the *Mardis* reference must be withdrawn**

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 22, 23 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the *Mardis* reference. Page 2, lines 12-17 of the *Mardis* reference contain the following statement. "It will also be seen that the rope thimble of this invention is clamped securely over substantially the entire loop of the rope, thereby eliminating the danger of any slippage or distortion whatsoever of any of the strands or that part of the rope looped around the thimble." That is an express statement that there is no slippage and no distortion of the rope relative to the thimble of the *Mardis* reference. Therefore, it is impossible to interpret the *Mardis* reference as the Examiner has done in the Office Action. The Examiner is incorrect in contending that the *Mardis* reference includes a compressive system that utilizes mechanical deformation responsive to slippage of the tension member. That interpretation is inconsistent with and directly opposite to what the *Mardis* reference teaches. Accordingly, the Examiner's interpretation is unreasonable. There is no *prima facie* case of anticipation.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

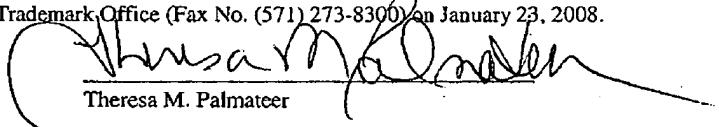
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this Request for Reconsideration, relative to Application Serial No. 10/684,171, is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571) 273-8300) on January 23, 2008.


Theresa M. Palmateer

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